



Dear Dragon Families,

While living on a small island in the South Pacific can sometimes present some interesting challenges, it can also produce a lifetime of unforgettable memories. I encourage our families to actively embrace the Okinawan culture and enjoy experiences they would never encounter in the United States. Okinawa is known throughout the Corps as one of the best, if not the best, duty station for families. The myriad of family programs, the safe local community, and the tropical climate all contribute to the joy of living on Okinawa. The best part of raising a family on Okinawa is the strong inter-family ties that develop between our Dragon Families. The friendships created on this island will "PCS" with you when you return to the States.

The Dragons strive to host social events that enhance our inter-family ties and strengthen the precious relationship between our families and our single Marines and Sailors. Dragon families here on Okinawa seek to adopt our unaccompanied personnel, who are separated from their families in the States, as their own. Dragons are never alone.

As siblings and parents of our Marines and Sailors, you are just as much a part of our family as our spouses and children. I encourage everyone to make at least one trip to Okinawa to visit your Dragon. The pride we all share in our squadron, aircraft, and shipmates will be apparent as your Marine or Sailor gives you a tour. Additionally, you will be particularly impressed by the cultural awareness of our Marines and Sailors as they guide you around our small island.

I deeply respect the patriotism, contributions, and sacrifice made by our families and extended families. Whether you are living on Okinawa, or are just here for a visit, I hope to be able to meet each of you.

ALL THE BEST,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Damien Marsh".

Damien M Marsh
LtCol US Marines
HMM-265 Commanding Officer